

— Capsule Summary  
SM-565  
"The Picture Box"  
Leonardtown  
Private

c. 1938

— Constructed in 1938 by Herbert B. and Arvilla C. Dunkle, the "Picture Box" is a one-story, frame, L-shaped plan commercial building on the northeast corner of Pope and Fenwick Streets in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland. According to Edward Stokel, a local historian, the Dunkles opened and operated the store called the "Picture Box" to serve as a photography developing laboratory and portrait studio. Since this initial use, the store has also served as a florist as well as a shoe repair shop. In 1980 the store passed from the Dunkle family ownership to J. Harry Norris. In the 1980s Mr. Norris hired Aubrey Mattingly who successfully renovated the store. In 1997, the building housed Breton Veterinary Hospital and Norris Real Estate.

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SM-565, "The Picture Box"

St. Mary's County

Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Modern Period, 1930-present

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture  
Commerce

Resource Type

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Town

Historic Function and Use:

Store

Known Design Source:

None

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. SM-565

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "The Picture Box"

and/or common The Dunkle Store

## 2. Location

street & number 22 Fenwick Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown

☐ vicinity of

congressional district 3

state Maryland

county St. Mary's

TM 133, P 5

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name J. Harry and Jannette P. Norris

street & number Box 235

telephone no.: (301) 475-2951

city, town Leonardtown

state and zip code Maryland 20650

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber MRB 173

street & number

folio 104

city, town Leonardtown

state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-565

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The "Picture Box" store is located on the northeast corner of Pope and Fenwick's Streets in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland. The store building is situated on a flat 0.1 acre tract bounded on the south and west by roads and east and north by parking lots.

The "Picture Box" store, erected in the <sup>1930s</sup> late 1940s is a one-story frame building with an L-shaped plan. The store was erected on a brick pier foundation now obscured by a new brick facing. The walls are sheathed with aluminum siding and the roof, pierced by a corbelled brick flue is covered with a raised seam metal. The building is divided into two discrete sections. The east section features a four-bay gable front with a steeply pitched gable roof. The west section is setback from the east section and has a flatter pitched gable roof that runs perpendicular to the east section. It is not clear if this building was built during two periods. Historical photographs suggest that they were erected simultaneously.

The primary or south elevation is divided into two sections. The east, gable front section is pierced by two centrally located doorways sheltered by a gable roof door hood. Each of these doors is flanked by a plate glass picture window divided into twenty panes with fake muntins. At the peak of the gable roof is a louvered vent for the attic. The west section is fronted by a porch that is supported by four square columns interspersed by a railing and plain balustrade. The balustrade is interrupted near the center of the section to permit entry onto the porch and building itself. This section is pierced by a centrally located door flanked on either side by a plate glass picture windows divided into twenty panes with fake muntins.

The interior and other elevations were not investigated.

The house was competently renovated in the 1980s. Very few changes were made to the building's fenestration, building materials, and original form, however.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-565

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Constructed in 1938 by Herbert B. and Arvilla C. Dunkle, the "Picture Box" is a one-story commercial building on the northeast corner of Pope and Fenwick Streets in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland. According to Edward Stokel, the Dunkles opened a store called the "Picture Box" to serve as a photography developing laboratory and portrait studio. Since it was initially built, the store has also served as a florist as well as a shoe repair shop. In 1980 the store passed from the Dunkle family ownership to J. Harry Norris. In the 1980s Mr. Norris hired Aubrey Mattingly to renovate the store. In 1997, the building housed Breton Veterinary Hospital and Norris Real Estate.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-565

Interview, Edward Stokel, March, 1997

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.1 acreQuadrangle name LeonardtownQuadrangle scale 1:24 000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoningdate April 1997street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone (301) 475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032  
8-1-97

SM-565, The "Picture Box"  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Deed Reference: Liber MRB 173, Folio 104

Grantee: J. Harry and Jannette P. Norris

Grantor: J. Harry Norris

Date: March 5, 1984

Notes: The building and .10 acre tract at 22 Fenwick Street is transferred to a joint ownership between the Harry and Jannette Norris.

Deed Reference: Liber MRB 71, Folio 104

Grantee: J. Harry Norris III

Grantor: Nancy Dunkle Kalnasy

Date: May 13, 1980

Notes: The property was purchased for \$15,400

Deed Reference: Liber 101, Folio 352

Grantee: Nancy Dunkle Kalnasy

Grantor: Herbert B. and Phyllis Dunkle, Jr.

Date: May 1, 1962

Notes: Herbert B. Dunkle, Sr. died on February 23, 1953 and transferred the property to his wife and eventually to his son Herbert, Jr.

Deed Reference: Liber JMM 11, Folio 226

Grantee: Herbert B. and Arvilla C. Dunkle

Grantor: L. Roger and Vera A. Richardson

Date: September 22, 1938

Notes: This deed notes that the lot contains 4,458 sq ft.

Deed Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 455

Grantee: L. Roger and Vera A. Richardson

Grantor: Francis F. and Margaret L. Greenwell

Date: October 10, 1929

Deed Reference: Liber JMM 2, Folio 513

Grantee: Francis F. and Margaret C. Greenwell

Grantor: Nettie A. Morgan, et al.

Date: December 10, 1924

Notes: After F. O. Morgan died, his heirs sold the tract.

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 9, Folio 56

Grantee: F. O. Morgan

Grantor: E. Leigh Morgan

Date: October 3, 1910

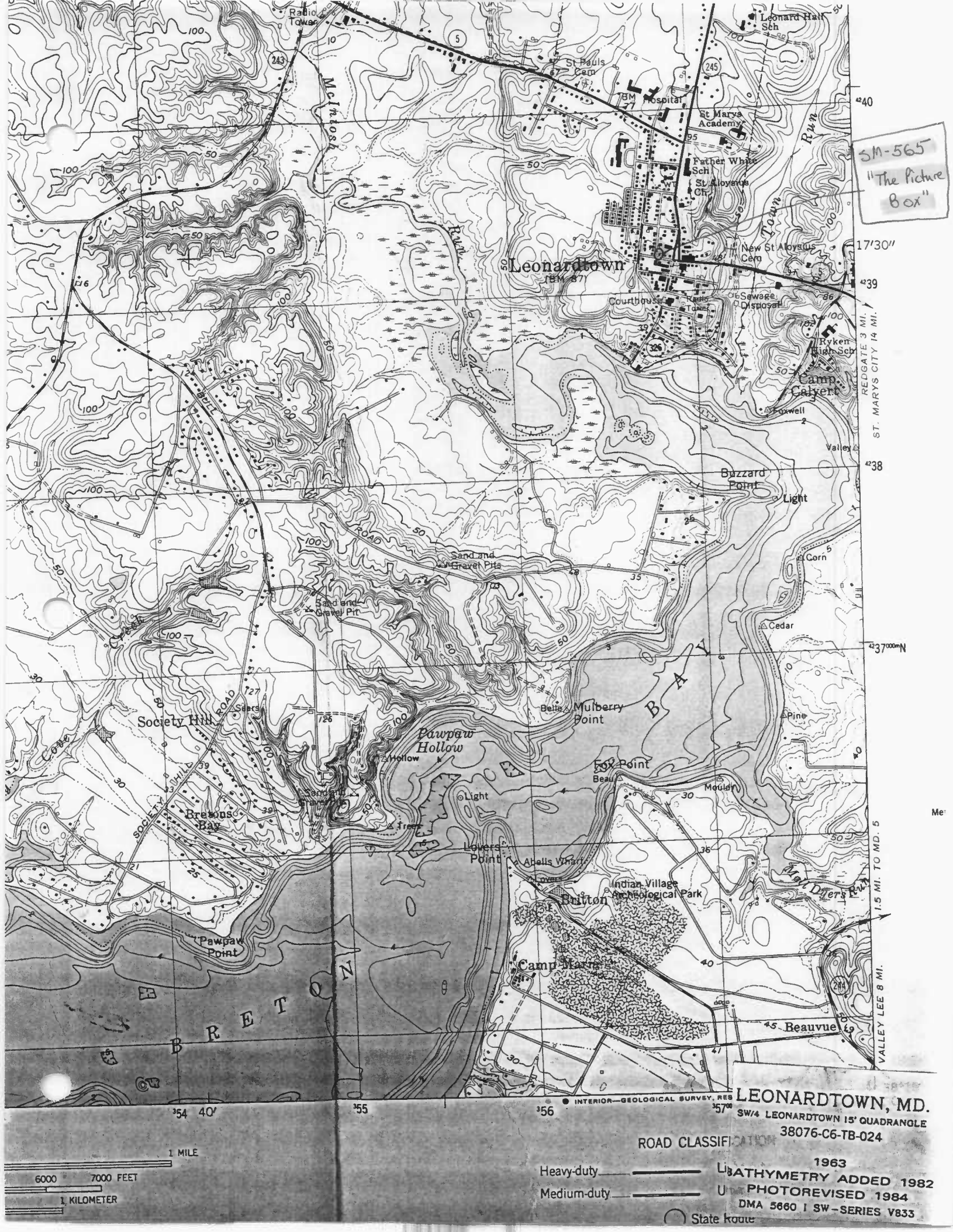
Notes: According to this deed the property once extended from Washington Street to Pope's Alley and contained a house and lot on the west side of Washington Street and a tenant house and lot situated on Pope's Alley. No bean clause was given the chain-of-title was broken.

SM-565. "The Picture Box"  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance



c. 1980s Poloroid photos of "The Picture Box" store before renovations. Source: Becky Proffit.







CM-565

"The Picture Box"

2+ Mary's Courty

Kirk Kanzena

Dec/96

Ad - HPO

2+ w/ elevations

1 of 1